

an obvious question: What assurances are there that the tenant will not mistakenly choose the rate that will be more costly to him or her?

Moreover, H.R. 2 would require housing authorities to set monthly minimum rents at \$25 to \$50, and authorities could grant hardship exemptions from such minimum rent requirements. To individuals who make more than \$100,000 per year, a minimum rent of \$25 to \$50 may seem reasonable. Such reasoning only illustrates how out of touch supporters of this bill are with the people they represent. For the state of New York, a \$50 minimum rent would affect 900 households, and a \$25 minimum rent would affect 1,828 households. For homeless families utilizing special rent assistance, but who have no income, this minimum rent would be a hardship. For large families receiving AFDC in low benefit states, this minimum rent would be a hardship. For families awaiting determination of eligibility for public benefits, this minimum would be a hardship. For individuals and families transitioning from homelessness to housing, this minimum rent would be a hardship. Yes, many of the people that we represent have little to no income at all. The Congress should be compassionate enough to grant these families some leeway. Support the Velazquez amendment that would only allow a minimum rent up to \$25 and would grant the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) the authority to define eligibility for the exemption.

Finally, H.R. 2 would permit the short-sighted, misguided practice of turning over state public housing funds to local governments in the form of a block grant without regard to vital protections. The Home Rule Flexibility Grant could be utilized by cities and towns to develop and administer their own low-income housing programs. Again, the perverse possibilities of such a fund are crystal clear. Local governments, already grappling with fiscal viability, may choose to use federal housing funds for other city needs. Local governments would be free to establish their own rules and regulations regarding income targeting provisions, 30 percent rent ceilings and other tenant protections.

Undoubtedly, H.R. 2 is a bad bill. It is not a marked improvement over last year's failed effort to reform the nation's public housing policy. It contains minor provisions that do some overall good for the community development and housing needs of our most vulnerable: permitting HUD to take over chronically troubled housing authorities; permitting the demolition of obsolete, dilapidated urban public housing; and permitting "elderly only" or "disabled only" public housing buildings. However, these are crumbs compared to the overall famine in housing face by 5.3 million poor families who pay more than 50 percent of their income for rent and/or live in substandard housing. This bill does little to provide "a housing opportunity" for our vulnerable citizens and abdicates a great deal of federal "responsibility." Vote "no" on the so-called "Housing Opportunity and Responsibility Act."

Mr. LAZIO of New York. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) having assumed the chair, Mr. GOODLATTE, Chairman of the Commit-

tee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill, (H.R. 2) to repeal the United States Housing Act of 1937, deregulate the public housing program and the program for rental housing assistance for low-income families, and increase community control over such programs, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

#### SALUTING THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AND THE WORK OF LEO FRIGO OF GREEN BAY, WI

(Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JOHNSON of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to salute the spirit of volunteerism, and to bring to Members' attention the work of one Leo Frigo of Green Bay, WI.

Leo Frigo exemplifies the very spirit of volunteerism that inspired a national volunteer summit last month in Philadelphia I was privileged to attend. In my city, Leo Frigo makes a difference to the community and to our country. He was honored last night with a 1997 Green Bay Rotary Free Enterprise Award.

In business, Leo Frigo led a successful cheesemaking company in Wisconsin, but in retirement he set an amazing example for a community; 14 years in retirement focused on feeding the hungry.

He convinced the local St. Vincent de Paul Society into making space at its store for food donations. Thus was born Paul's Pantry. Today it is a thriving food pantry for the hungry.

Leo Frigo's title is volunteer executive director, but what he does every day is more remarkable: collecting food, sorting food, driving a forklift. Leo does whatever is required so others in need may eat. Last year he directed more than 5,000 volunteers in giving out millions of dollars' worth of food, feeding families who otherwise would go hungry.

Leo Frigo is a great example of volunteer citizen service at its purest. He is an inspiration to us all, and I join all of northeast Wisconsin in thanking him for his tremendous work.

#### PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS TO HAVE UNTIL MIDNIGHT, FRIDAY, MAY 9, 1997, TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 1486, FOREIGN POLICY REFORM ACT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on International Relations have until midnight, Friday, May 9, 1997, to file a report on the bill, H.R. 1486, the Foreign Policy Reform Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, MAY 12, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### HOUR OF MEETING ON TUESDAY, MAY 13, 1997

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Monday, May 12, 1997, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, May 13, 1997, for morning hour debates.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

#### HONORING THE TEACHERS OF THE TITLE I RESOURCE PROGRAM AT THE MT. HOPE/NANJEMOY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is National Teacher Recognition Week. I rise today to recognize three very special teachers in my district: Debbie Lane, Kathleen Donahue, and Deborah Walker. Together they run the title I resource program at Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School in Nanjemoy, MD. The Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School placed almost a full three points above the countywide average in the Maryland school performance assessment program. This improvement over last year's below average score is due in part to the efforts of these three very distinguished teachers.

The Department of Education joins me in recognizing the Mt. Hope/Nanjemoy Elementary School. This title I program is part of a select group honored by the Department of Education this week.

I salute, Mr. Speaker, these three teachers and the title I resource program for its outstanding success. They touch the future, and the future will be better for their efforts.